

OMEC and WEC Italy inaugurate the Mediterranean Energy Talks (MEETs) with a high-level dialogue on energy, trade and cooperation in the region.

The Mediterranean Energy Talks (MEETs), a new platform for high-level dialogue on the strategic role of energy in the Mediterranean, was officially launched on April 16 with a digital event jointly promoted and organized by the **Organisation Méditerranéenne de l'Énergie et du Climat (OMEC)** and **WEC Italy, the Italian Member Committee of the World Energy Council**.

The inaugural webinar, titled *"The Energy, Technology and Trade Nexus in the Mediterranean: Implications for the Region and its Relations with Key Global Players"*, convened a distinguished group of policymakers, international experts, and institutional representatives to discuss how energy can act as a lever for regional integration, sustainable growth, and geopolitical balance.

In their opening remarks, **Houda Ben Jannet**, Director General of OMEC, and **Marco Margheri**, Chair of WEC Italy and moderator of the session, emphasized the ambition behind MEETs: to build a pragmatic and inclusive space for strategic dialogue across the Mediterranean region. The initiative aims to move beyond idealistic frameworks and instead foster cooperation based on mutual interests and tangible outcomes.

The discussion highlighted the Mediterranean's potential to emerge as a global hub for clean energy, but also the complex challenges the region must address - ranging from economic fragmentation and infrastructure gaps to youth unemployment and the need for climate resilience.

Speakers stressed that accelerating the energy transition in the region requires not only cross-border infrastructure and investment, but also innovative financing mechanisms, public-private partnerships, and policies that prioritize local value creation and social inclusion.

Contributions from **Ferid Belhaj**, former Vice President for MENA at the World Bank, **Paul Nomba Um**, former Regional Director for Infrastructure in the MENA region at the World Bank, and **Enrico Petrocelli**, Head of International Institutional Relations at Cassa Depositi e Prestiti and Secretary General of the D20 Long-Term Investors Club, offered rich geopolitical, economic, and financial perspectives. Their remarks converged on the need for renewed Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, driven by realism, strategic vision, and long-term commitments.

With nearly 100 attendees, the first MEETs webinar successfully laid the groundwork for a continued regional conversation on energy as a driver of shared prosperity and sustainable development.

More information and the webinar recording will be available shortly on OMEC and WEC Italy's communication channels.

